

Equine Herpes Virus-1 (EHV-1)

Equine Herpes Virus-1 (EHV-1) is a contagious virus in horses that is spread either by direct contact with EHV-1 horses or indirect contact through people, equipment or vehicles that have been exposed to EHV-1 affected horses. EHV-1 is not a human health concern, but is of concern to horse owners, as it is easily spread.

Horse owners should be especially watchful of their horses at shows, fairs, or anywhere that large numbers of horses are in close contact. Not only is close contact of concern at events, but horses may be stressed and more likely to shed herpes virus. The combination of stress and commingling at events can lead to a disease outbreak.

Vaccinating for EHV-1 is the best way to prevent horses from contracting the virus, but good biosecurity practices should always be used. Horse owners should make sure to observe isolation periods when horses return home from shows, fairs, and other events and avoid sharing equipment with other horse owners.

It is very important to be observing your horses for any signs of EHV-1:

- Nasal discharge
- Incoordination
- Hind limb weakness
- Loss of tail tone
- Lethargy
- Urine dribbling
- Head tilt
- Leaning against a fence or wall to maintain balance
- Inability to rise
- Temperature greater than 101.5



**If you suspect Equine Herpes Virus-1,
please contact your veterinarian and the
State Veterinarian's office:**

1-800-292-3939 (daytime)

517-373-0440 (emergencies only)



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